GCCS System Integration Support

Teleconferencing User's Manual

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SOFTWARE USER'S MANUAL:

TELECONFERENCING USER'S MANUAL

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TELECONFERENCING USER'S MANUAL
GCCS VERSION 2.1

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1.0   INTRODUCTION

The replacement functionality for WIN Teleconferencing consists of three applications: Internet Relay Chat (IRC), Usenet News (Newsgroups), and World Wide Web (WWW). Table 1-1 provides a brief description of each application. These applications were acquired from both public domain sources and commercial vendors. Only minor modifications have been made to them to make them appropriate for use on the SIPRNET. The changes were limited to the areas of need to know and access restriction.

Table 1-1. WIN Teleconferencing Replacement Applications

Application	Description
Internet Relay Chat (IRC)	Interactive, non-persistent, text-based. IRC is a chatter-style program for real-time conferencing. This function is similar to those functions of the WWMCCS "Communication" function.
Usenet News (Newsgroups)	Non-real-time interactive, short-term persistency, text-based. The Usenet (commonly known as Newsgroups) application is similar to the primary functions of WIN Teleconferencing. Usenet is used to view and receive messages using a bulletin board style functionality.
World Wide Web (WWW)	Limited interactivity, long-term persistence, text and binary capability. The World Wide Web (commonly known as Web on the Internet) is used to view and retrieve files and documents, including graphics. Documents are available on "the Web" for users to browse and view, save, download or print.

IRC is a real-time, interactive conferencing tool. Messages input to a conference are made visible to other participants in the conference within seconds. It is non-persistent; there is no mechanism for viewing messages that were transmitted while the user was not in the conference. Thus, its functionality is similar to that of a telephone conference call. However, it is possible for each user to log a conference session (create a text file containing a copy of every message that appeared in a conference while the user was connected to that conference). IRC is similar to the "comm" functionality in WIN Teleconferencing.

Usenet News is a version of the well-known Newsgroups on the Internet. Users run client software, called a *news reader*, that downloads articles from a news *server*. The client software receives news articles that are current at the time the client logged onto a particular Newsgroup. If articles arrive after the user has attached to the server, the user is not made aware of them until he re-connects or refreshes. This combined with the fact that it can take tens of minutes for a news article to propagate to all servers in the network makes News an interactive, but non-real-time application. The articles that are posted to newsgroups are text files, i.e., they do not generally carry the type of control characters normally found in a word processor and they do not carry binary graphical files.

The WWW provides the ability to move large files of any type using an intuitive graphical interface. This is not an interactive application; the author of a document makes it available on the Web, and other users download the document for viewing and/or printing. This application provides to the user the ability to format simple text documents as well as publish and download formatted word processed files and binary graphical files such as maps and pictures. The ability of web *browsers* (web client software) to use external

programs to view or process documents does not commit the GCCS community to any particular binary format for (formatted) text or graphical data.

Each of these applications follows the client/server model. GCCS users execute client programs that allow the user to specify a server to connect to (usually by specifying the machine upon which the server is running).

This User's Manual provides instructions for running the client programs for each application. Note that multiple client programs exist for each application, and that each of the supplied client programs provides the same or similar functionality. This document explains the difference between the client programs and provides pointers to assist the user in selecting which client program to use.